

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 17, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Morin called the school committee meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. and announced Committeeman LeMay and Committeeman Richardson would be participating at tonight's meeting remotely.

ROLL CALL

Members

Present: Mr. LeMay (remote), Mr. Nocco, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Richardson (remote), Mr. Morin

Members Absent: Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Hogan (absent @ roll call - arrived @ 6:46 p.m.), Mr. Bahou

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
Lisa Martinez, Director of Technology, Enrollment and Information
Mark White, Athletic Director
Recording Secretary

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

There was no public appearance.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

There were no School Committee communications

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Chairman Morin informed the committee that the student representative was unable to be at the meeting and the report has been provided to the members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Nocco to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 20, 2025.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Bahou)

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Nocco to waive the reading of the warrant.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Bahou)

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Nocco to approve expenditures for the sum of \$4,983,146.22 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2142B	dated 02/21/2025	Payroll # 1001	1,296,097.71
Warrant 2142A	dated 03/07/2025	Payroll # 1003	1,429,340.83
Warrant 2141-1	dated 03/07/2025	Accounts Payable	591,753.50
Warrant 2142	dated 03/21/2025	Accounts Payable	876,135.02
Warrant 2142-2	dated 02/28/2025	Mass Bay Health	784,292.98
Warrant 2142-3	dated 02/28/2025	Sales Use/Meals Tax	2,681.34
Warrant 2142-4	dated 03/14/2025	Lowell Five Cr Card Fees	2,844.84

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Bahou)

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

There was no report of general counsel.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

Superintendent Davis welcomed Coach Cassidy and two wrestlers – Antoine Jackman and Lilie Normandie, as well the Winter Cheer Team for their incredible athletic accomplishments this year. She began by congratulating Lilie Normandie, a senior in the Auto Technology program, highlighting her Girls State Vocational Wrestling Championship and Division I State Championship for Girls Wrestling wins. She continued with congratulating Antoine Jackman, a sophomore in the Electrical program, who made school history as the first All-American wrestler, earning recognition at the National High School Coaches Association tournament in Virginia Beach. Superintendent Davis highlighted his accomplishments which included second place in Division I Sections, All-State Championships, and New England Championships, as well as third place in Division I State Championships. Superintendent Davis continued by inviting Coach Riley, Coach Medina, and the Winter Cheer Team to come forward to recognize their extraordinary achievements this year and highlighting the team's accomplishments. Their season included 2025 State Vocational Champions, 2025 Division I North Regional Champions, 2nd place at Division I States, and 4th place at New England Championships.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell was awarded a federal Career Connected Learning Program Development Grant in the amount of \$35,000. She added the funds would be used to purchase equipment for the new Veterinary Science Program.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell was awarded the 2025 Marsha Paul Education Grant in the amount of \$2,500 to fund our application for Enhancing Aquaponics with Real-Time Monitoring and Automation for STEM Education.

Superintendent Davis asked for the Committee's approval to accept a donation totaling \$4,367 from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation grant made possible through the recommendation of donor-advised funds. Of the \$4,367 donated, \$1,000 was donated from the Merrimack Valley Rotary Club for the Lawrence L. Day Memorial Scholarship Fund for tools scholarship and \$3,367 was donated from Mark & Elisia Saab for the GLTHS Student Activities Fund to provide annual support for student activities.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Nocco to accept the donation from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation Grant on behalf of the Merrimack Valley Rotary Club and Mark & Elisia Saab.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou)

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the Cooperative Education report provided indicates 257 senior students participating in the program as of the end of March of the Class of 2025 and 47 Junior students, representing 9% of the Class of 2026. Ms. Davis provided an update, that as of the night of the meeting, there were 263 senior students (out of 562) participating in Co-Op which is 46% of the class of 2025 and junior students would be increasing to 12% in May as a result of Lahey hiring 14 students.

Superintendent Davis informed the Committee that she was seeking their approval of the 2025-2026 School Committee Meeting Schedule. She noted that a copy of the proposed meeting schedule was included in the package for review and asked if there were any questions or concerns with the dates provided. Committeeman Gitschier, on behalf of Committeeman Bahou who was absent at tonight's meeting, made a request to change the proposed date of August 21, 2025 to August 28, 2025. After discussion by the committee, the members were in agreement to keep the proposed date of August 21, 2025 and Committeeman Gitschier withdrew the request. With no additional questions or requests made, Superintendent Davis asked for their approval.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve the 2025-2026 School Committee Meeting schedule.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou)

Superintendent Davis invited Lisa Martinez, the Director of Technology, Enrollment and Information to speak to the committee members regarding School Choice. Mrs. Martinez informed the members that every year, a decision has to be made as to whether to participate in School Choice for the following school year. Superintendent Davis added that she was looking for the Committee's approval not to participate in School Choice. Mrs. Martinez informed the members that school choice applications are placed at the end of the waiting list, as we accept our in-district applicants first; therefore, due to our extensive waiting list, there would be no reason or need for us to participate in School Choice.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Nocco to approve not to participate in School Choice for the 2025-2026 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou)

Superintendent Davis, along with Lisa Martinez, continued with her final item on the agenda by providing the committee with an update on vocational education admissions. She reminded the members that changes to vocational school admissions regulations were imminent. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is currently proposing a lottery-based admission system and eliminating our current system which uses selected criteria. Superintendent Davis outlined DESE's proposed lottery-based admission system which includes all applicants being entered into the lottery system with up to two (2) additional entries possible based on attendance and/or suspensions thresholds. Superintendent Davis voiced her strong opposition of these changes, noting the proposed threshold regarding unexcused absences undermines the value of regular attendance in technical training, where hands-on hands are irreplaceable. Ms. Davis continued with the alarming safety implications with the proposed threshold regarding suspensions, highlighting an applicant's entry into the lottery no matter how long, how extreme, and how violent their disciplinary record. Superintendent Davis noted that the primary issue is not being resolved; it's not the admission process, but the lack in available seats. She added that lowering standards compromises readiness and safety and sends the wrong message about workplace reliability.

Committeeman Gitschier, Hogan and LeMay voiced their opposition to these changes. Committeeman Gitschier asked Superintendent Davis what would occur if the committee did not approve the changes to the admissions policy. Superintendent Davis said that she was unclear, but would seek legal counsel on that question and get back to them with a response. Ms. Davis added that there was still time open for public comment until Friday @ 5:00pm and encouraged them to do so on their beliefs on this proposed lottery system. Ms. Davis added that there is also a proposal for a Task Force to be developed which she is in support of and would consist of individuals to discuss this issue further, review data, and make recommendations. A decision on the approval of the Task Force is also pending as well.

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

School Business Administrator Mr. Knight informed the committee that the CADD Department was approached by a vendor who had purchased a couple of 3D printers they intended to use, but did not meet their needs. They have offered them to the CADD department as a donation and we would like to accept.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Hogan to accept the donation of two (2) new Sindoh DP200 3D printers.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou)

School Business Administrator Mr. Knight provided the committee with an explanation of the budget line transfers request and asked for approval totaling in the amount of \$335,900.

MOTION: by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the budget line item transfers.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou)

School Business Administrator Mr. Knight noted that at the March 20th meeting, the FY26 budget was approved without the use of E&D, as the process to certify the balance with the Department of Revenue was not finished. That certification is now finished and in order to complete the FY26 budget to meet the recommended budget, it must be amended to include the use of E&D to support the expenditures previously outlined.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve the use of \$425,000 in the FY26 budget, increasing the budget to \$59,120,802.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou)

OLD BUSINESS

Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings

1. Superintendent's Wall (O'Hare)
2. Building Security (Sheehan)

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COMMITTEEPERSON MOTION

There were no committeeperson motions.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

There was no report of sub-committees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Morin requested a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) – to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – nonunion personnel, District Treasurer, Senior Assistant Principal, Assistant Principals, School Business Administrator, School Committee Recording Secretary.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Nocco to enter into executive session.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou)

Chairman Morin announced there may be a potential vote on ratification discussed during executive session; therefore, the committee would be returning to open session.

The meeting ended to go into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. with a roll call vote of 6 present (2 absent, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou).

The meeting reconvened at 7:42 p.m. with a roll call vote of 6 present (2 absent, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou).

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Nocco to approve the following:

- 4% salary increase for 2025-2026 for the non-contractual employees.
- 4% salary increase for 2025-2026 for the Senior Assistant Principal.
- 4% salary increase for 2025-2026 for the Assistant Principal – Beauchamp.
- 4% salary increase for 2025-2026 for the Assistant Principal – Santiago.
- 4% salary increase for 2025-2026 for the School Business Administrator.
- 4% salary increase for 2025-2026 for the School Committee Recording Secretary.
- 4% salary increase for 2025-2026 for the Assistant Superintendent/Principal.
- 4% salary increase for 2025-2026 for the Superintendent-Director.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou)

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Nocco to renew the one-year District Treasurer's contract to include a 4% cost of living increase.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou)

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Nocco, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou)

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval: March 20, 2025

Copy of Donation Letters

March 2025 Cooperation Education Report

Copy of proposed FY26 School Committee Meeting Dates

Copy of memo from Mr. Knight re: 3D Printer Donation

Budget Transfer Request

Copy of memo from Mr. Knight re: FY26 Budget Amendment

Year-to-Date Budget Report